A DEAF MUTE COLLEGE.

DEGREES CONFERRED ON STUDENTS WHO CANNOT HEAR.

The Wonderful Progress in the Education of the Deaf and Dumb—The Curriculum of the National College at Washington. Some of the Work Done.

Very little is known about the ancient treatment of the deaf, but Aristotle is credited with saying somewhere in his musty works that the deaf are wholly incapable of receiving intellectual instruction. History tells us, however, that deafness was sometimes deemed a visitation of divine wrath, and that the poor victim was frequently destroyed to save the family honor, or was classed with the idiotic or insane and treated as an outcast. This opinion must have prevailed many centuries, for it was within the last 150 years that it was discovered that the deaf were capable of receiving intellectual instruction.

A college for deaf mutes was founded in the city of Washington about twenty-six years ago to combat the popular prejudice. The college grew and thrived. Few people know anything about the National Deaf Mute college, or the Columbian Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, as it is known officially, at Kendall Green, Washington. A man who, had he lived 1,000 years ago, might have been roasted because he could neither hear nor speak today studies moral philosophy, the calculus and ancient and modern languages, and graduates from a college with a degree.

THE COLLEGE.

The Columbia institution was incorporated in 1857, and has since then been sustained by congress as an institution where deaf mute children living in the District of Columbia and children of soldiers and sailors should receive free education. Ample provision is also made for deaf mutes from the states and territories, who have not the means of defraying the expenses of tuition, which amount to $250 a year. The institution continued for seven years as an ordinary high school, but in 1864 it was decided to organize a collegiate department, and congress passed an act authorizing the institution to confer collegiate degrees. The institution was then divided into two departments, the school and the National Deaf Mute college. In one of his annual reports Dr. Edward M. Gallaudet, the president of the college, says:

"The object of the directors in establishing a school of this grade, thus taking a step unprecedented in the history of deaf mute instruction, was in part to prove what had been doubted by some, that persons deprived of hearing and speech could, in spite of their disability, engage successfully in the advanced studies pursued in colleges for the hearing. The more important end in view, however, was to afford to a class of persons in the community, already numerous and increasing steadily with the population, an opportunity to secure the advantages of a rigid and thorough course of intellectual training in the higher walks of literature and the liberal arts."

The best evidence of the success of the movement can be found in this paragraph from the annual report of 1887, which tells what pursuits some of the graduates followed:

WHERE THE GRADUATES GO.

"Fifty who have gone out from the college have been engaged in teaching, one has entered the ministry, three have become editors and publishers of newspapers, three others have taken positions connected with journalism, ten have entered the civil service of the government, one while filling a position as instructor in a western institution has rendered important service to the coast survey as a microscopist, two have become accomplished draughtsmen in architects' offices, one has been repeatedly elected recorder of deeds in a southern city, and two others are recorders' clerks in the west.

"Another has been elected city treasurer and is at present cashier of a national bank, one has become eminent as a practical chemist and assayer, two have taken places in the faculty of their alma mater and are rendering valuable service as instructors, some have gone into mercantile and other offices, some have undertaken business on their own account, while not a few have chosen agricultural and mechanical pursuits in which the advantages of thorough mental training will give them a superiority over those not so well educated."

Congress has been liberal with the institution. In 1881 a fine gymnasium was completed, which cost $14,000. Most of the students in the college are graduates of the lower department of the institution, but not a few received their early education in separate local schools. The entire curriculum, including an introductory year, embraces a period of five years. Candidates for admission to the introductory class are examined in these subjects: The command of English as shown in oral or finger-spelled conversation; in rendering at sight paragraphs selected from school books and from newspapers; in extemporaneous English composition; arithmetic; history of the United States; history of England to the beginning of the reign of Henry VII; political geography; physical geography, and elements of natural philosophy.

The curriculum of the college is about the same as that of any other college. It includes mathematics, English, Latin, Greek, history, zoology, botany, chemistry, physics, physiology, French, German, logic, mental and moral science and political philosophy. The degrees which the college has conferred are: Bachelor of arts, bachelor of science, bachelor of philosophy, master of arts, master of science and doctor of philosophy.—New York Sun.

A Simple Plan.

Mr. Youngman (after long thought)—Is there any way to find out what a woman thinks of you without proposing?

Mr. Benedick (absently)—Yes; make her mad.—Good News.

New York People Eat Lots of Meat.

Besides the great influx of western meat there arrived in New York, at the great stock yards in Jersey City and the New York Central yards in 1889, 380,000 cattle, 300,000 calves, 2,000,000 sheep and lambs, and 1,750,000 hogs, making 270,000,000 pounds of beef, 36,000,000 pounds of veal, 80,000,000 pounds of mutton and lamb, and 262,500,000 pounds of pork. Counted with the western meats this makes, for the amount of butchers' meat eaten by the 3,000,000 people in the metropolitan district—New York, Brooklyn, Jersey City, Hoboken, Yonkers and so on—somewhere about 470,000,000 pounds; 235,000 tons of beef; 76,000,000 pounds or 38,000 tons of veal; 85,000,000 pounds or 42,500 tons of mutton and lamb, and 276,500 pounds or 8,250 tons of pork last year. This makes a grand total of 453,750 tons of meat—907,500,000 pounds—consumed by New York and vicinity in one year. That means about one pound a day for each man, woman and child—twice as much as is eaten in London.—New York News.

Great Oaks, Etc.

While gathering sweet violets on the Clarion river's banks last April two little girls found some unusual specimens and planted them at home. Shortly the mother discovered among the collection a small pumpkin vine, which was duly replanted. The vine waxed strong, blooming nicely. A small pumpkin came, and when harvested it weighed forty-two pounds. Its species is veiled in obscurity. Last week the Clarion fair awarded the little girls a premium, and next Thanksgiving, when the Maffitt family has a reunion, the pumpkin will appear revised and made up into pies which the little girls are expected to make.—Chicago Herald.

A rather extraordinary project for power distribution is at present under consideration in Saxony, Germany. It is proposed to establish near the city of Dresden an immense electric central station to furnish high tension currents for lighting and power to 168 small towns and villages in the territory circumscribed by the towns Meissen, Friedberg, Pirna, Schandau, Sebnitz and Radeberg.

Hardly any English people intend to pass the coming winter in India. The annual rush of the last few seasons has been stopped for the time by the outbreak of cholera in Arabia, from which cause Egypt is also likely to suffer severely, as many people who were intending to winter on the Nile are frightened, and consequently have changed their plans.

Feodor von Freimann, a veteran of the Franco-Russian war of 1812, died recently at the age of 115 years in St. Petersburg. He served in the Russian army twenty-five years, and received a cross of St. George for his bravery. At the age of 99 he married a 17-year-old girl by whom he had two children.

Barbers report that hair dyeing is going out of style. Many "tonsorial parlors" do not keep the dyes. Gray threads in a young man's head, especially if his occupation can be construed to be intellectual, are considered distingue.

During King Humbert's late visit to Brescia, while visiting the manufactory of Signori Mussato and Cerasi, he perceived an old man decorated with the silver medal for military valor. The king bade him approach, and on learning that he had fought by his side against the Austrians in 1866, when the battalion of the Forty-ninth formed square and repulsed three charges of the Austrian cavalry, he shook hands heartily with him and took down his name.

FIRE EATERS' TRICKS.

HOW THE SALAMBOS PERFORM THEIR WONDERFUL FEATS.

Very Easy After You Know the Way It Is Done—The Mouth and Skin Are Protected by a Solution of Sulphur and Alum—Gas Is Generated from Gasoline.

Among the various methods of earning your bread by the sweat of your brow, fire eating is one that would seem but few people would adopt as a means of livelihood. But for years and years people with cast iron palates and brazen plated lips and tongues have exhibited their peculiar abilities for a stipend. At the present time in this country there are a half dozen men and women who go about from dime museum to variety hall and from variety hall to a "store show" and astonish the natives. All these people do seemingly the most wonderful things, and as the business is difficult to learn their numbers are limited.

The present corps of fiery entertainers have, however, been lately augmented by a brother and sister, whose ability in that line puts everything in the shade ever seen here. They are known on the bills as Earle and Ollie Salambo, and are further dignified for show purposes as the "Human Electrical Dynameters." The Salambos touch each other with their fingers and produce sparks; they open their mouths and a stream of flame two feet long issues from them if they but touch their lips with the ends of their fingers; they swallow boiling wax and blow sparks—showers of sparks—from the end of a hollow glass tube; they take a gas pipe with four gas jets on it, and by the simple process of putting an end in the mouth and drawing their hands across the gas jets four good sized flames burst into brilliancy.

HOW THE TRICKS ARE DONE.

It was only steady practice and constant coating of their mouths and hands and soles of their feet with a solution, and the business was comparatively easy and they really did not swallow anything at all. Each performer has his own recipe for the solution he drinks and rinses his mouth and hands with, but the principal ingredients of it in each case remain the same. When the mouth is rinsed out in that it forms a sort of an artificial skin or film that it takes a little while to destroy, and as long as that coating remains there is absolutely no danger, and the rest of their wonderful tricks are nothing but a delusion and in most cases sleight of hand.

There is one performer who is known in museum circles as the "Human Lamp," and he makes lots of money by doing this act. He drinks some kerosene oil in view of the audience, puts a wick in his mouth, lights the wick with a match, puts a lamp chimney over the flame and burns merrily away. On his stand is a lamp half filled with oil. From the can he pours what purports to be oil in the lamp. It is not. It is water, and, of course, the oil already in the lamp floats on top of the water; then he lights the oil to prove what he poured out was oil. He gravely drinks from the oil can, puts a wick saturated with sweet oil in his mouth, lights the wick, and there you are. Very simple, is it not?

Now there is another gentleman who walks on red hot bars, and seizing a horse shoe heated red hot in a forge near by bites the heated ends off and pretends to swallow them. He is not so much of a trickster as the "Human Lamp," and really earns all the money he gets, for although his bare feet are coated with a sulphuric solution and his mouth and lips well plastered with the same, it is real hard work to bite pieces of iron in halves, even if the heat makes them soft and pliable, and if they are kept in the mouth too long, in spite of the film, they are very hot and uncomfortable indeed. This gentleman calls himself St. Elmo, and another part of his performance is to take oakum balls, saturated with blazing pitch, in his mouth, a half dozen in succession.

THE HUMAN GAS WELL.

And that trick gets more applause than the biting of the horseshoe, but it is very easy of accomplishment, because the minute you put fire in a place where there is no air it immediately goes out, and so the instant St. Elmo closes his mouth the fire is quenched in the blazing ball, and all there is about it is the disagreeable taste of the oakum ball and a little warmth, which may not be pleasant, but can be borne for $50 a week.

Another trick of the fire eaters is to take a piece of cotton and put it in their mouths, and then open their mouths and blow smoke and streams of fire out. Every child, or almost every child, knows that if you put a spark in the center of a ball of cotton and blow through it the fire will eat all the center out, leaving the mere shell.

There is a companion performer to the "Human Lamp," known sometimes as "Natural Gas," or the "Human Gas Well." He gets more money than the man who drinks water for oil, and deserves to. What he does is precisely the basis of all the work done by the Salambos. Instead of eating cotton and pitch and wax when heated, he coats his mouth with his own private solution and unseen stoops down and picks up a round worsted ball saturated with gasoline. Now, gasoline is very volatile, and when mixed with air forms a vapor that is easily ignited and gives a very fierce and blue flame.

A gasoline ball held in the mouth and blown steadily through, the vapor goes through the gas tube and is ignited, and that's all there is to the "Human Gas Well." The lecturer of the museum where he works generally vividly describes where he was born and how his parents could not keep him from eating the dirt in the natural gas fields of Ohio, and other interesting fabrications.—New York Herald.

The Retort Courteous.

Tangle—Do you know how it feels to be kicked by a mule?

Bronson—No, and I hope you don't want to show me.—Epoch.

A Farmer Huntsman.

The last comer was one of the farmer members of the hunt. His dress was careless, his horse's coat lacked the sleek, shiny appearance of the others noted. His hat had a jam in it. No gloves covered his hands. His boots were ordinary leather, with no spurs attached. He wore a flannel shirt, and actually hadn't a "crop." In other words, he didn't use a whip or anything else to protect himself from the trees and bushes. But he sat on his horse not like a centaur—that is too stiff—but as if he had never been out of a saddle since he was born.

From the waist to the knees his body seemed rigid as iron, so firm was his seat. Above the waist his body was perfectly flexible, inclining according to the gait of the horse. His legs hung easily, with the feet projecting forward and pointing outward in the stirrups. Most of the time while riding his left hand was in his trousers pocket, his right holding his bridle rein loosely and close down to the saddle. Such is a brief pen picture of a man who, though riding at over 200 pounds weight, is counted as one of the best and most daring horsemen in the valley.—Outing.

Theatrical Stars on the Bowery.

I shall never forget those old stock days. There were rehearsals during the day and long performances at night. It was hard to snatch time for meals, and we almost lived in the theatre. The east side of New York was then a potent factor in theatricals. The Old and New Bowery theatres were very popular playhouses, and among the stars who appeared there were the three Booths, Joseph Jefferson, James and Lester Wallack, Edwin Eddy, John Brougham, Lawrence Barrett, Charlotte Cushman, Kate Bateman, Laura Keene, Edgar L. Davenport and George L. Fox.—Sol Smith Russell in Kate Field's Washington.

Two Metallic Representatives.

The following was recently told us by a Galveston high school teacher: At one time there was visiting in that city the famous Tom Ochiltree and Mr. Mackay, the California millionaire, and the teacher gave out one day "Our Visitors" as the subject for a composition. Among those which were submitted was one by a bright girl which commenced as follows: "We have in our midst two distinguished visitors, Mr. Mackay and Tom Ochiltree, representing respectively gold from California and brass from Texas."—Boston Traveler.

A Mild Suggestion.

Customer—I want to get a material that won't hold the dust.

Tailor—Then I would suggest that you raise the dust first.—Clothier and Furnisher.

A New Dish.

The best autumnal breakfast dish that has come to the cognizance of people who know what's what is described as a compound of hashed chicken, tender green peppers and small clams. The first impression on the senses is made by a savory, stimulating perfume, which is said to be calculated to convince the most jaded reveler that he was mistaken in the miserable supposition that he "couldn't eat anything." The second assault on his appetite is made through the eye which gradually discerns that it isn't simply a chicken hash which invites, but a glorified medley of clams, peppers and hashed chicken. The third result of contact with this new plat is effected through the sense of touch, and taste alone does it justice. Its creator is George Boldt, who, in anticipation of taking charge of the new Astor house, has recently dispatched one of his young men all through Europe to gather ideas.